

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0064

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS CARACAS 9351

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC VE

SUBJ: REPORTED PROBLEMS WITH IIE AND GMA STUDENTS

FOR: STATE FOR CU/MAXWELL CHAPLIN; USIA FOR ILA/RODGERS

1. CARLOS A. CHAVEZ, ONE OF VENEZUELA'S MOST RESPECTED COMMENTATORS ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, DESCRIBED TODAY IN EL UNIVERSAL REPORTED PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE GRAN MARISCAL DE AYACUCHO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IN THE US. CHAVEZ CONCLUDES THAT IF THE REPORTS ARE TRUE, ONLY A 15 PERCENT RATE OF SUCCESS CAN BE EXPECTED.

2. CHAVEZ CRITICIZES BOTH IIE, WHICH HAS BEEN CONTRACTED FOR THE PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS, AND THE GMA REPRESENTATIVE MANCILLA, WHOSE OFFICE IS HOUSED WITHIN IIE AND WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IT IS TO SUPERVISE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAM IN THE US. THE ARTICLE STATES THAT THE PLACEMENT DONE BY IIE FOR A FEE OF \$1,000 PER STUDENT COULD BE DONE PRATICALLY WITHOUT COST AND THAT IIE HAS BEEN REMISS IN FOLLOWING UP ON THE INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS AND IN IDENTIFYING THE BASIC PROBLEMS THE STUDENTS CONFRONT. SPECIFICLY HE CITED:

- (1) LATE DELIVERY OF MONTHLY CHECKS AND INCOMPLETE PAYMENT FROM VENEZUELA OR THORUGH IIE;
- (2) SLOW PROGRESS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING BECAUSE, AFTER CLASS HOURS, THE STUDENTS ARE TOGETHER SPEAKING SPANISH;
- (3) ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS IN COLD CLIMATES, WITHOUT ADVISING THEM OF THE NEED FOR WARM CLOTHING. CHAVEZ CONCLUDES THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE STUDENTS HAVE SERIOUS DIFFICULTY CONCENTRATING

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ON THEIR STUDIES AND TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE TIME AND OPPORTUNITY. IF THESE PROBLEMS CANNOT BE CORRECTED QUICKLY,

HE SAID THE AYACUCHO PROGRAM COULD BE A FAILURE IN THE UNITED STATES.

COMMENT: ACCORDING TO GMA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LEOPOLDO LOPEZ, THE GMA NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVE MANCILLA AND VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR BURELLI RIVAS ARE MAKING THOROUGH CHAVEZ CHARGES THAT ARE OVERBLOWN AND LARGELY UNJUSTIFIED. LOPEZ IS BEING PRESSURED TO CANCEL THE IIE CONTRACT WHICH HE HAS RESISTED SO FAR SUCCESSFULLY. HE STATES, HOWEVER, HE SERIOUSLY IS CONSIDERING NEGOTIATION OF A NEW CONTRACT WITH IIE.

ACTION REQUESTED: COULD CU PROVIDE STATUS REPORT ON GMA DROPOUTS AND DIFFICULTIES BEFORE IIE'S BOARD REGIONAL MEETING IN CARACAS, SEPTEMBER 22-26?  
SHLAUDEMAM

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